Principal's Report
School Council
August 14,2024

Back to School: The 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start!

Back to School Mass: Good Shepherd hosted the Diocesan back to school gathering on Monday, August 5 for over 600 Diocesan teachers. There was a keynote speaker in the Parish Hall in the morning followed by Mass at the Church. A BIG thank you to Mrs. Creek and Mrs. Baker for planning the beautiful music at Mass. Thank you to our servers: Lawson VanOrsdoll, Patrick Elpers, Charlie Elpers, Eli Funk and Jude Lovell. Thank you also to Scott Ferguson and his cleaning crew for having our building looking beautiful!

Hospitality Masses: The 8th grade class will host the first hospitality Mass the weekend of August 24-25.

Staffing: Welcome to our new faculty and staff: Tara Dickerson (PS), Hannah Goad (K), Julie Braun (PS Assistant), Kassi Weis (PK Assistant), Jamie Reinhart (PK Assistant), and Pat Keefer (Cafeteria). We are still in need of another preschool assistant and 1st grade assistant.

Formative Assessments: GSCS will continue to utilize iReady as our formative assessment for grades K-2. The diagnostic will be given beginning the first full week of school. These assessments will give us current data on student levels in Math and Reading. Students in grades 3-8 are participating in the ILEARN checkpoints pilot this year. They will take three assessments before the ILEARN test in the spring. The data from these checkpoints will inform the teachers if students are mastering the necessary standards.

DIBELS Testing: Students in grades K-2 will begin taking the DIBELS reading assessment. This test gives teachers information on reading levels, fluency and phonics.

Anonymous Reporting Tool: The anonymous online reporting tool is available again this year to students, teachers, and parents. This tool can be used to report any concerns that a person may have. The tool is available on student iPads and the website under Student Resources.

Parent Open Houses and Orientations: All parents, preschool through grade 8, have the opportunity to attend an open house/ orientation either before school starts or the first full week of school. This gives the teachers the opportunity to connect with parents and explain their procedures and expectations.

School Council Training: The Catholic Schools Office will offer the annual School Council Training on Thursday, September 19 at 6 p.m. It will be held virtually this year.

Enrollment: As of this report, our enrollment is 469 preschool through grade 8. 393 are K-8 students. Of those 387 K-8 students, 46 are non-Catholic.

Choice Scholarships: Good Shepherd currently has 302 or 77% of K-8 students are receiving a choice scholarship.

Choice for All- There will be a strong push this year for non-public schools in Indiana to engage in the legislative process as Choice for All will be up for vote this year. Each school was tasked with creating goals for this school year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Girten